GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:661
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2016
Satellite Application for Weather Forecast
Chandrakasi Shri M.

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal for satellite based application for advanced and accurate weather forecasting for the benefit of fishermen of the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details regarding new initiatives under the consideration of the Ministry to encourage and support fishermen of the country to make their life easy and earn more profits?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY)

(a-b) No Madam, there is no new proposal. Already for the benefit of fisherman community, a satellite based application for the fishermen community of the country, called "Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) Advisory service " is operational involving Geographic Information System (GIS) tools since 1999 with locational guidance of fish grounds/aggregation. In addition, the Ocean State Forecast (OSF) (wave height and direction, wind speed and direction, ocean currents, sea surface temperature, depth of mixed layer and thermo cline, sea level at major and minor ports, etc.) is also being provided to fisherman on local marine weather conditions.

The use of PFZ information helps fishermen community in reduction of search time for fish resulting savings in the fuel cost.

As per National Centre for Economic Applied research (NCEAR) report roughly one million marine fishermen are active fishers and they are benefited by Potential Fishing Zones (PFZ), Ocean State Forecast (OSF) Advisory Services of Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS). Out of one million approximately 0.66 million people are involved in allied fishing activities such as marketing fish, processing fish etc. Across the one million coastal fishermen community, the annual value addition during post Potential Fishing Zone Advisory Services since 2004-05 is assessed at Rs. 4700 crores. GDP contribution of PFZ and

Ocean State Forecasting services for the fishery sector is assessed at 3.9 % in 2012-13 from 1.9% in 1995- 96 and can potentially increase to 7.8%. Accordingly, additional annual income to fishermen is aggregated at Rs. 3,034 crores. Environmental benefits accrue further as the saving due to reduction in overall diesel consumption computed as carbon credits, on account on per unit catch due to targeted potential fishing zone identification, aggregates annually to Rs. 36,200/- Crores.

A wide range of advanced communication technology are employed for dissemination of the information, including Electronic Display Boards installed at 100 fishing harbours/fish landing centers / fishing hamlets/fishermen cooperative societies, through telephones, Fax, Local Cable TV Networks, Doordarshan, All India Radio (Thiruvananthapuram and Karwar), Community Radio's, FM Radio Stations (like Radio Benziger in Kollam, Radio Monsoon in Thiruvananthapuram, Kalpakkam Community Radio, Radio Ala in Kakinada), Local News Papers, SMS, INCOIS web site, email, Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS), mobile applications viz. Fisher Friend Mobile Application (FFMA), mKRISHI, In-house developed android application, Village information Centres, etc. The feedback received from the fishermen suggests that they depend on Ocean State Forecast for planning their daily fishing activities, where as PFZ helps saving the fuel and reduce search time.